

May 2016 Issue

PrepareAthon!

Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare.

On April 21, with the stroke of a pen, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell Jr. and the municipal mayors signed a proclamation declaring April 25 – 29, “**Shelby County PrepareAthon!**” Shelby County is the only county in Tennessee to participate in the FEMA-sponsored PrepareAthon. The week-long event began with a news conference featuring Willie Womack, Chief, Preparedness Branch, National Preparedness Division, FEMA, Region IV. He said, “Obstacles will always be in our way, the difference in survival is how well we prepare now.”

“This PrepareAthon,” said Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director Dale Lane, “is a call to action to empower our community to get prepared, not just a one time event.” This unprecedented readiness endeavor, months in the planning, focused on daily themes including weather, flooding, tornados, earthquakes, and personal and business preparedness. The planning team of FEMA, TEMA, SCOP (Director Dale Lane and SCOP Officer Shelby Logan) and Shelby County Mayor’s Office (Steve Shular, PIO) created an exciting awareness campaign and media blitz with press releases, public service announcements, press conferences, earthquake and tornado drills, updated web sites, Facebook Chats and Twitter updates.



Photo Caption: WMC’s Ron Childers broadcasts live from the EOC. **Left:** SCOP Director Dale Lane interviewed by Childers about the PrepareAthon. **Right:** Childers talks with Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO, Director Dale Lane, and SCOP Officer Eugene Jones in a live “Facebook Chat.” Childers said, “We saw what happened with Katrina. Be part of the solution. Be prepared for all realities.”

On April 27, a delegation from FEMA, TEMA, and SCOP toured Shelby County to observe tornado and earthquake drills and other PrepareAthon initiatives first hand.

A rousing success - over 222,710 citizens participated in the PrepareAthon and reached over 10,000 with the media blitz! The Shelby County Office of Preparedness would like to thank their partners: FEMA, TEMA, Shelby County Government (Schools / Fire Department / Health Department), FedEx, MLGW, Naval Support Activity, National Weather Service, Memphis Office of Emergency Management, U.S. Coast Guard, First Tennessee and First Horizon Bank, American Red Cross Mid-South Chapter, Federal Reserve, First Assembly Christian School, DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office, the Orpheum Theatre, and our faith-based community.

Shelby County PrepareAthon Tour



Photo Captions: **Left:** A ride on the Hydratrek, used to rescue flooding victims. **Right:** Representatives from FEMA, TEMA, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and SCOP viewed the Shelby County Sheriff's Office rescue equipment.



Photo Captions: **Left:** FEMA representatives tour MLGW. Jordan Rudolph, left, in the MLGW Emergency Operations Center with FEMA's Helen Lowman and Major General, USA (Retired), W. Montague Winfield. **Right:** SCOP Director Lane, left, and SCOP Officer Eugene Jones, right, at the Navy Preparedness Expo. Photo by Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO.



Photo Captions: PrepareAthon on WLMT 30 "Local Memphis Live." **Left:** Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO, Amy Spiropoulos meets FEMA's Major General, USA (Retired), W. Montague Winfield, and SCOP Director Dale Lane waiting to go on the air. **Right:** Director Lane, 3rd from left, on "Local Memphis Live." Photo by Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO.

Shelby County PrepareAthon Tour



Photo Captions: Left: Wendall Meadows, 2nd left, greets the FEMA representatives at the First Assembly Christian School in Cordova. Right: Children participate in a tornado drill in the hall.



Photo Captions: Left: Harvey Kennedy, Shelby County CAO, 3rd left, meets FEMA's Major General, USA (Retired), W. Montague Winfield and Helen Lowman at the Shelby County Mayor's Office. Right: FEMA representatives toured the American Red Cross Mid-South Chapter.



Photo Captions: Downtown Elementary School's tornado drill. Left: SCOP Director Lane leads officials at the drill. Right: Children gather in a hall on the first floor for a tornado drill.

Shelby County PrepareAthon Tour

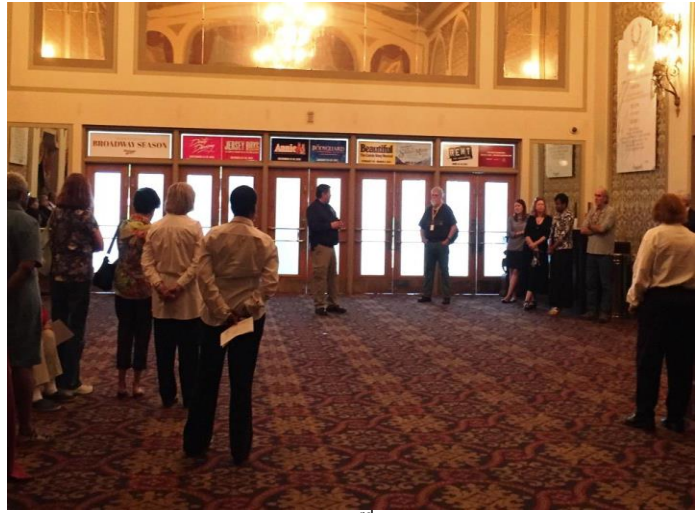


Photo Caption: Left: SCOP Reserves, Steve Smith, left, sitting, and Ham Hilliard, 3rd left, demonstrate ham radio for FEMA's Helen Lowman and SCOP Director Lane. Right: SCOP Officer Eugene Jones, center, advises Orpheum employees how to protect themselves during a tornado.



Photo Captions: Northhaven Elementary School earthquake drill. Left: SCOP Officer Jesse Gammell, standing left, and SCOP Deputy Administrator Levell Blanchard, 2nd left, observe the drill with school officials. Right: Children practice the "drop, cover, and hold" earthquake maneuver. Photos by Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO.

Ready Neighbors Contest

Whether your neighborhood is small, medium or large, you are invited to enter the "Ready Neighbors" competition to win \$5,000! Ready Shelby is sponsoring this fun contest for all neighborhoods in Shelby County who are ready for a disaster. Take the "Five Steps to Preparedness" challenge, record your progress, and turn in the results. The five steps are: Have a Family Communications Plan, Identify a Safe Place, Build an Emergency Kit, Learn Compression Only CPR, and Take a CERT class.

Go to www.readyshelby.org to register. The winners will be announced at the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Leaders Conference on August 12, 2016.

Fallen Firefighter



Photo Caption: Flag at half staff, station 37, Weaver Road, for Lt. Eddins

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness joins first responders and citizens in Shelby County to thank Memphis firefighter Lt. Rodney Eddins who died April 17 in the line of duty after 30 years of service.

SCOP at Miracle in May



Photo Caption: Children view the FEMA earthquake poster at Miracle in May event

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness was delighted to attend the 9th Annual "Miracle in May Community Day" at Greater Faith Tabernacle Ministries on May 14 at 905 East Shelby Drive. Reserves handed out FEMA preparedness brochures, HELP / OK signs, earthquake posters, and Citizen Corps bags to families attending the event. Other agencies represented at Miracle in May included the Shelby County Health Department, Regional One, Life Blood, Donate Life, Shelby County Commission on Aging, Lifeblood, Tender Care, Safe Place, and United Healthcare. If you would like SCOP to attend your community event or to request a speaker, please visit: www.staysafeshelby.us.

Weather Events / Outages



Photo Captions: April 30, 2016 winds. **Left:** Downed trees and power lines at Sea Isle at East Dearing. **Right:** Downed trees and power lines on W. Edwin Circle at Central.

National Weather Service in Memphis Reported:

- **April 14:** Flash Flood Warning
- **April 29:** Special Weather Statement. Flash Flood Warning. Flash Flood Watch
- **April 30:** +50 mph winds. Beale Street Music Festival delayed. Downed trees and power lines.
- **May 1:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Flash Flood Warning
- **May 2:** Special Weather Statement.

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Outages:

- **April 14:** 3,500 outages (Hacks Cross)
- **April 15:** 2,607 customers (Whitehaven area)
- **April 18:** 15,000 customers (powerline down East of Evergreen / South of Poplar)
- **April 24:** FedEx Forum effected for 15 minutes
- **April 29:** Millington High and Middle School dismiss early. 4,781 customers
- **April 30:** 22,306 customers



Photo Captions: Clouds low over Covington Pike, Austin Peay and Stage Road on May 2.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens that inclement weather can occur any time. Have a NOAA all-hazards radio with a battery back-up with you at all times and upload free weather apps to mobile devices. Heed the watches and warnings!

Mississippi River at Memphis



Photo Captions: Riverboats across from Mud Island May 17.

The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reports the Mississippi River at Memphis stage is 22.35 feet on May 17. Flood stage is 34 feet. Visit www.weather.gov for the latest river stage information.

Hurricane Preparedness Week



“It only takes one!” is the theme of **Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 15 – 21, 2016**. Just one hurricane can impact thousands on the coast and those living hundreds of miles inland. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness keeps a close eye on category 3 (or greater) hurricanes nearing the Gulf Coast, especially from June 1 to November 30, the Atlantic Hurricane Season. We will not receive a direct hit from a hurricane, but remnants in the form of thunderstorms or flooding may occur. Shelby Cares, our faith-based sheltering initiative is committed and ready to house Gulf Coast hurricane evacuees if needed. NOAA’s Weather Ready Nation offers safety tips and “awareness tours” during Hurricane Week for those living on or near the coast. For more information, please visit www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/hurricane_preparedness. Follow at #hurricanestrong.

National “Police Week” May 15 - 21

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) works in partnership with law enforcement officers to provide safety and security to Shelby County, in peace time and during disasters. During National Police Week, May 15 – 21, SCOP sends a message of sincere appreciation for the important job the officers do.

Auxiliary Communications Drill



Photo Captions: Left: Ham Hilliard, sitting, makes contact via ham radio with Bell Buckle, TN
Right: Billy Freeman, center, standing, shares information about how to build a ham radio day pack.

The spring Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) auxiliary communications drill was held on May 6 and 7 at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP). Eugene Jones, SCOP Officer, welcomed licensed amateur “ham” radio operators to the 2-day event. The drill scenario was “day four of a catastrophic earthquake in our region rendering traditional communications inoperable.” Therefore, ham radio was used for emergency communications. Shelby County’s mission was to communicate by ham radio to TEMA and ham radio operators at Bell Buckle, Tennessee.

Before the drill, hams attended classes organized by SCOP. Instructors included Germantown Fire Department Captain Howard (Jelly) Thompson, TN-TF1; Memphis Fire Department Lt. Billy Freeman, TN-TF1 Communications Expert, and SCOP Reserves Steve Smith, Rosalina Melena, and Ham Hilliard. Classes included: “Clear Talk in an Emergency,” “Tactical Radio Operations,” and “Emergency Antennas.”

The group gathered outside to test an antenna built during class and to check-in with TEMA. Students suspended an antenna cable 30 feet off the ground using a slingshot and an air boss pneumatic antenna launcher. After antennas were hung, instructor Ham Hilliard checked-in with ham operators at the TEMA site at Bell Buckle at 2:55 p.m. Following the check-in, a laptop computer was attached to the ham radios to send an email to Bell Buckle using the RMS Winlink Global Radio Email.

Lt. Freeman commented on this successful drill, “We (Capt. Thompson and himself, both Tennessee Task Force 1 members) won’t be here during an emergency. That is why we are working closely with SCOP Director Dale Lane and Officer Eugene Jones ahead of time. We recommend that for ham radios to work in an emergency, prepare ahead of time and test, test, test. SCOP is one of the best organizations I have seen, from the command level to the boot level to support ham radio.”

All licensed hams are welcome to check-in to Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Reserve Net (SCOPERNET), Mondays at 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

Amateur Radio Resources:

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Federal Communications Commission: www.fcc.gov

Congratulations Gary Graves!



Photo Caption: Director Graves

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness congratulates Chief Gary Graves as the new Public Safety Director of Millington. He will oversee both the Millington Fire and Police Departments in his new role. Graves served as Millington's fire chief until accepting this new position.

MPD Bomb Trailer



Photo Captions: Left: MPD custom bomb trailer exterior, Right: Bomb trailer interior.
Photos by Mike Brazzell, SCOP Officer.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness recently purchased a customized bomb team trailer for the Memphis Police Department (MPD) through Homeland Security grant funds.

Preparedness Training

Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to sign up for **FREE** public safety and preparedness classes.

SKYWARN Weather Spotters: On line training

- National Weather Service: www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=onlinespottertaining
- Comet/MedEd: www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

FEMA Independent Study: FREE self-paced courses. To register, <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

Run, Hide, Fight: Surviving an Active Shooter Event. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>

Join Us! Volunteer!

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is recruiting for two exciting volunteer programs. To find out more or fill out an application, please visit: www.staysafeshelby.us.

- **Reserves:** Reserves attend monthly meetings, attend community events to hand out brochures, operate amateur “ham” radios, and assist the staff during activations. A minimum of 4 hours a month is required. SCOP is planning a recruit class for July 30, 2016. Email Shelby Logan at Shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov.
- **Shelby Cares:** Reserves assist staff when sheltering is needed in Shelby County. Email Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Emergency Operations Center Activations



The **Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP)** and the **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)** are at Level 5, Normal Operations, as of May 17.

Preparedness Resources

Apps:

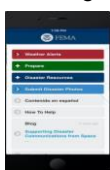
ReadyTN

www.tnema.org



FEMA

www.fema.gov



American Red Cross

www.redcross.org



NOAA Weather

www.mobileweather.gov



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.222.6700



SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA

- Shelby County Citizen Corps: email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): email eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Initiative: email terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Storm Shelter Registry: email kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves: email shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

- Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org
- Shelby County Public Health Emergency Preparedness: www.schdresponse.com
- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov
- Center for Earthquake Information and Research: www.memphis.edu/ceri
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov, www.ready.gov
- Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): www.tnema.org
- Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlqw.com, www.mlqw.com/residential/outagemap
Emergency: 901.544.6500, Downed Lines: 901.528.4465
- National Weather Service: www.weather.gov, www.weather.gov/memphis, 901.544.0399
- United States Geological Survey: www.usgs.gov

EMERGENCY: Call 911